Comments on the FCC license modification and interference to GPS:

The FCC must make clear, and the NTIA must ensure, that a company's license modification is contingent on the outcome of a mandated study unequivocally demonstrating that there is no interference to GPS. The study must be comprehensive, objective, and based on correct assumptions about existing GPS uses rather than theoretical possibilities. Given the substantial pre-existing investment in GPS systems and infrastructure, and the critical nature of GPS applications, the results of studies must conclusively demonstrate that there is no risk of interference. If there is conflicting evidence, doubts must be resolved against the newest applicant for license modification. Furthermore, the views of the company, as an interested party, are entitled to no special weight in this process.

In this case, the FCC should make clear, during a license modification process, that a company and its investors would be advancing projects at their own risk in advance of a FCC assessment. While this is the FCC's established policy, the Commission's International Bureau failed to make this explicit in its order.

Resolution of interference has to be the obligation of each company, not the extensive GPS user community of millions of citizens. The company must bear the costs of preventing interference emanating from their devices, and if there is no way to prevent interference, it should not be permitted to operate. GPS users or providers should not have to bear any of the consequences of the company's actions

This is a matter of critical national interest. There must be a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the evidence produced and further FCC actions on a company's modification order should take place with the approval of a majority of the commissioners, not at the bureau level.

Agribusiness Association of Iowa